United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1187
21 July 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council in unanimous decision demands that the "Party that has failed so far to do so permit without delay" the deployment of all components of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia; requests that international assistance to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia "from now on only benefits the parties which are fulfilling their obligations".

+ New Prime Minister of Yugoslavia invites United Nations observers to check that Yugoslav Air Force is not involved in military activities outside its territory; eleven humanitarian flights land at Sarajevo airport today.

+ Some 15 people worldwide with AIDS symptoms, but no sign of HIV virus, reported at AIDS Conference in Amsterdam.

* * *

In a resolution unanimously adopted tonight, Security Council members strongly deplored the continuing refusal by one of the parties to permit the necessary deployment of all components of United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to the areas under its control to enable UNTAC to carry out its full functions in the implementation of the Paris Agreements.

The Council also demanded that the Party that has failed so far to do so "permit without delay" the deployment of UNTAC personnel, and requested the Secretary-General and his Special Representative to ensure that international assistance to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia "from now on only benefits the parties which are fulfilling their obligations under the Paris Agreements and cooperating fully with UNTAC"

The text also urged all parties to cease all hostilities forthwith, to cooperate fully with in the marking of all minefields and "to refrain from any deployment, movement, or other action intended to extend the territory they control or which might lead to renewed fighting".

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The resolution also urged all States, in particular neighbouring countries, to provide assistance to UNTAC to ensure the effective implementation of the Paris Agreements, and approved the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative to continue to implement the Agreements despite the difficulties.

The Council's action followed its consideration of the Secretary-General's second special report on UNTAC dated 14 July, in which he noted that UNTAC military deployment had been proceeding and was now complete, "with some 14,300 troops in the country and the remainder en route".

However, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali also indicated that as a result of the refusal of one party to take place in the phase II of the peace process - which implies the cantonment and disarmament of the four parties' armed forces - barely 5 per cent of the estimated 200,000 Cambodian soldiers had been cantoned by that date.

Finally, the Secretary-General reiterated that the principles embodied in the Paris Agreements represented "the only viable means of restoring peace and prosperity to all the people of Cambodia" and urged the Cambodian parties to carry out their obligations relating to phase II of the cease-fire.

Before the vote of the Council tonight, a number of speakers, including the permanent members of the Council, expressed their deep concern at the difficulties met by UNTAC in the implementation of the Paris Peace Agreements and voiced their support for the efforts by the Secretary-General and his Special Representative in accelerating the implementation of the peace process in Cambodia.

* * *

The new Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, Milan Panic, today presented a letter to the President of the Security Council inviting the Council to send United Nations observers to all army air fields in Yugoslavia to monitor and check that the Yugoslav Air Force was not involved in any military activities outside its territory. He asked the Council to consider and accept his initiative quickly, as "one of the steps along the road to peace and stability".

Addressing a press conference at Headquarters today, Mr. Panic said that the invitation was the first in a series of peace initiatives he was prepared to offer. His first objective, he said, was to stop the killing, regardless of who did it or how it happened. To that end, he had "started to give the orders for no Serbian arms of any kind - tanks, aircraft or helicopters or personnel - to be used in the Bosnian conflict".

In a separate development, the Spokesman of the Secretary-General reported that eleven humanitarian flights had landed at Sarajevo airport today, one more than scheduled. Mortar fire around the airport today caused a one-hour interruption, but the flights resumed thereafter.

(more)

The Spokesman also announced that a soldier with the Nepalese contingent had been killed accidentally in Sector North. His death brought to eight the number of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) casualties since the operation began.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in a press release issued today, said that UNHCR's ability to deliver relief supplies from Sarajevo airport to the city had been diminished because at least five of the 12 trucks used for that purpose had been hit by shrapnel and rendered inoperable during yesterday's shelling.

* * *

Some 15 people worldwide who exhibit symptoms of AIDS, yet have not tested positive for the HIV virus, reported Dr. Michael Merson at the eighth International Conference on AIDS in Amsterdam today. However, the Director of the Global Programme on AIDS of the World Health Organization (WHO) stressed that further research was needed on the development.

According to the WHO official, most of the cases are in the United States. He urged the redoubling of prevention efforts, saying that if the disease was infectious, "it most likely will be spread like the AIDS virus".

Another major concern today was the rapid spread of HIV among women, through heterosexual transmission. Because of their increased vulnerability, Dr. Merson said, the number of women with HIV could surpass the number of men with HIV by the year 2000.

The WHO estimates that three-quarters of all HIV infections are transmitted through heterosexual intercourse. The problem appears to be particularly serious in parts of Africa and South and Southeast Asia.

* *** *